

NT History for Juniors: Lesson 13, "Jesus' Arrest and Trial"

- I. **THE UPPER ROOM (Jesus & His disciples ate the Passover in the Upper Room. But Jesus did not tell everyone where the Upper Room was. Jesus sent Peter & John to make everything ready [Luke 22:10-12]). Probably this was to keep it a secret from Judas Iscariot).**
- A. **[The foot washing]. Jesus & the disciples enjoyed a meal of roast lamb, bread, bitter herbs & wine. But then Jesus got up from supper and did something very surprising. He washed His disciples' feet.**
1. **Foot washing was a common custom of that day.**
    - a. The roads were hot & dusty, and people wore sandals. After walking people's feet would be hot, sweaty and dusty. So, if you had a guest you would wash his feet with cool, refreshing water.
    - b. However, foot washing was the job of a common servant or slave. None of the disciples had volunteered to wash feet because all of them thought they were too important. They argued about who was greatest.
  2. **So, Jesus got up, took off His outer robe, tied a towel around His waist and poured water into a basin.**
    - a. Then Jesus stooped down, and beginning at one end of the table, washed the disciples' feet in turn and dried them with a towel. How ashamed the disciples must have been! How they must have wished that they had volunteered to wash one another's feet! And how disgusted Judas Iscariot must have been!
    - b. But Peter was very upset that his Lord would wash his feet, and he protested. "Thou shalt never wash my feet" (John 13:8). But Jesus insisted that it was necessary and that the disciples should be willing to serve one another as He had done [foot washing was a sign of daily cleansing from sin].
- B. **In the Upper Room Jesus had two very shocking things to tell them about two of His disciples.**
1. **First, said Jesus, one of you shall betray me.**
    - a. What a shock. Here were Jesus' twelve closest followers and Jesus said that one would betray Him. But who could it be? Each one asked in turn, "Lord, is it I?" *Even Judas asked, "Is it I?"*
    - b. Jesus said, "It will be one of you who dips with me in the dish." But that did not explain who it is, it only underlined that it would be a close friend. Then he said it would be the one to whom He, after dipping the bread in the sauce, would give a "sop" (a piece of bread with sauce). *He gave it to Judas Iscariot!*
    - c. But, no one at the table, except Jesus and Judas Iscariot knew what Jesus meant. The Bible tells us that the devil entered into the heart of Judas, and then Jesus said to Judas, "That thou doest, do quickly" (John 13:27). No one knew what Jesus meant by that: they thought that Judas was supposed to go out to buy something or give something to poor. And Judas left the room and went out into the night!
    - d. Judas now understood something. Jesus knew about his plot. This meant that his wicked deed could not wait. If he was still going to betray Jesus and get his 30 pieces of silver he had to bring the enemies of Jesus to Him that very night. He could not wait until after the Passover. See how God is in control!
  2. **The second shocking thing was that Peter would deny Jesus three times.**
    - a. Jesus told His disciples that they would all abandon Him, but they all said that they would not. Peter, especially said that he would go to prison and death for Jesus.
    - b. But Jesus said to Peter that before the cock would crow twice Peter would deny Jesus three times. Jesus told Peter that He had prayed for him and that Peter should watch and pray because Satan desired to have Peter. Peter, however, insisted that he would never deny Jesus.
  3. **With Judas gone Jesus was able to speak privately with His disciples and teach them many wonderful truths about Himself, the Father and the Holy Spirit. He also instituted the Lord's Supper.**
    - a. Jesus took bread and broke it. He explained that the bread is a symbol of His body, which would be broken on the cross for them, and that they should eat this bread in remembrance of Jesus.
    - b. Then Jesus took wine, poured it, and passed it to the disciples. He explained that the wine is a symbol of His blood, which would be poured out on the cross for them, and that they should drink this wine in remembrance of Jesus
- II. **THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE**
- A. **Jesus left the Upper Room with His 11 disciples and went to the Garden of Gethsemane, a quiet garden where He often went, and a place Judas Iscariot knew.**
1. **Up to this point Jesus had been very calm. But in the Garden of G. Jesus began to be frightened.**
    - a. He asked three of His disciples, Peter, James & John, to come with Him into the garden to pray.
    - b. He went a little further and fell on His face before God and prayed three times: "O my Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me. nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39).
    - c. The Bible says he began to be sorrowful and very heavy (Matt. 26:37), sore amazed and exceeding sorrowful unto death (Mark 14:34) and in an agony (Luke 22:44). So intense was Jesus' prayer that He seemed to sweat blood! ("His sweat was as it were great drops of blood" [v. 44]).

2. **But, what was Jesus afraid of? What caused Him such pain that He sweated blood? The cup!**
  - a. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew that just around the corner was Judas Iscariot. He knew that He would be arrested, beaten, spat upon and then put to death on a cruel cross. But that was not His fear.
  - b. There was something much worse: it was the cup. In the Garden of Gethsemane the Father reached to Jesus the cup and Jesus looked into the cup and shuddered in horror. He asked, if it were possible, for the cup to pass away from Him, so that He would not have to drink it.
  - c. The cup was filled with God's wrath, God's fierce anger against sin. God put all His anger against our sins into that cup and said to His Son, "Drink every last drop of this!" Jesus wanted to know if there was another way, any other way, than drinking the cup. The Father's answer was clear. There is no other way. So, Jesus, out of love for the Father and for us took the cup and began to drink. Now, He was ready to face His sufferings which would end with His cruel death.
- B. **While Jesus had been praying, His disciples had fallen asleep. But one disciple was very busy. Judas had lost no time. After leaving the Upper Room, he had gone to the house of the chief priests, and they had quickly arranged for the temple police and soldiers to find and arrest Jesus.**
  1. **It was the middle of the night. Judas and a mob arrived armed and carrying lanterns. Judas had a sign for the men: the one I kiss, He is the One, arrest Him.**
    - a. Judas walked into the Garden of Gethsemane, went up to Jesus, kissed Him and said, "Hail Master" (Matt. 26:49). Jesus replied, "Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48). How hurtful it must have been for Jesus to be kissed by a man who said he loved Jesus but really hated Him and sold Him into the hands of His enemies for 30 pieces of silver.
    - b. At that point, Jesus stepped forward. "Whom seek ye?" He asked (John 18:4). "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied (v. 5). Jesus said, "I am He," at which the whole mob were knocked backwards by the power of Jesus to the ground! (v. 5-6). Only then did Jesus willingly surrender Himself into their hands.
  2. **Just as the mob were about to take Jesus, a sword swished through the air: it was Peter's.**
    - a. Peter wanted to defend his beloved Master. He missed and cut off the ear of the servant of high priest, a man called Malchus. Jesus rebuked Peter and healed Malchus' ear, the last healing He performed before they tied His hands.
    - b. When the disciples saw that Jesus would not defend Himself, they ran away into the night, leaving Jesus alone with His enemies.

### III. THE TRIAL BEFORE THE JEWS

- A. **Jesus was arrested in the middle of the night. Everything was very unexpected for Jesus' enemies.**
  1. **They were in a hurry and wanted to have Jesus condemned in time to bring Him to Pilate the next morning. Jesus' trial, however was illegal.**
    - a. Jesus had been arrested, but what was His "crime"? Where were the witnesses? The enemies of Jesus had already decided that He was guilty, but they needed proof and they had none.
    - b. It was against Jewish law to hold a trial at night, but they bent the rules in the case of Jesus. In fact, they had to wake the Jewish leaders out of sleep and no one was ready. Remember Judas was supposed to betray Jesus *after* the Passover.
    - c. The high priest, Caiaphas, took control of the court case. False witnesses came but they could not even get their stories to agree. They asked Jesus about His disciples and teachings, but they could prove no sin against Him.
  2. **Finally, Caiaphas put Jesus under oath. Jesus confessed that He was the Messiah, the Son of God.**
    - a. In horror, Caiaphas tore his cloak: Jesus was guilty of blasphemy and worthy to die. They all agreed.
    - b. Once they had decided on the death penalty, they beat Jesus, spat upon Him and mocked Him.
- B. **Meanwhile in the courtyard below, Peter was in trouble. He had followed Jesus from a distance and had found his way into the high priest's house. In the courtyard he waited to see what would happen to Jesus.**
  1. **As Peter stood warming himself by the fire, a servant girl said that she recognized Peter.**
    - a. The girl said, "You were of Jesus of Nazareth." But Peter said that he did not know Jesus, and walked away from the fire
    - b. Another said, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." Again Peter denied it. It was getting dangerous.
    - c. A third time the accusation came. "You were with Jesus. You are a Galilean. Your accent gives you away!" But Peter continued to say, No." Then Peter cursed and swore that he did not know Jesus.
  2. **At that point two things happened --- Jesus looked at Peter and the cock crowed.**
    - a. Peter remembered Jesus' words --- "Before the cock crow twice thou shalt deny me thrice."
    - b. Peter had said it was impossible. He would never deny Jesus, but Jesus was right. And Peter wept bitterly.